

COLORADO RIVER ACTION PLAN: GUNNISON RIVER

	ACTIVITY	WHO	STATUS	FY 04 10/03-9/04	FY 05 10/04-9/05	FY 06 10/05-9/06	FY 07 10/06-9/07	FY 08 10/07-9/08	FY 09 10/08-9/09	OUT- YEARS
I.	PROVIDE AND PROTECT INSTREAM FLOWS (HABITAT MANAGEMENT)									
I.A.	Identify fish habitat and flow needs.									
I.A.1.	Initially identify year-round flows needed for recovery (Flow recommendations will be provided upon completion of Aspinall Unit studies.)									
I.A.1.a.	Complete draft technical synthesis report.	FWS	Complete	McAda 2000.						
I.A.1.b.	Complete draft biological assessment.	BR					X			
I.A.1.c.	Complete final technical synthesis report.	FWS	Complete	McAda 2003.						
I.A.1.d.	Complete final biological assessment.	BR					X			
I.A.1.e.	Complete draft biological opinion.	FWS						X		
I.A.1.f.	Complete draft NEPA document .	BR					X			
I.A.1.g.	Complete final biological opinion (FWS) and NEPA document (BR).	FWS/BR						X		
I.A.1.h.	Complete ESA Section 7 consultation resulting in a programmatic biological opinion (PBO) for the Gunnison Basin.	FWS/BR/WAPA							X	
I.B.	State acceptance of initial flow recommendations (Flow recommendations will be provided upon completion of Aspinall Unit studies.)									
I.B.1.	Review scientific basis, dependent on development of flow recommendations by FWS.	CWCB/CDOW	Complete	Complete with acceptance of McAda 2003.						
I.B.2.	Assess legal and physical availability of water.	CWCB	Complete	Colorado completed work on a water availability study in early 1995 & the work was used as the basis of the allocation of compact water between the five subbasins.						
I.B.3.	Assess compact considerations.	CWCB	Complete	Colorado completed work on a water availability study in early 1995 & the work was used as the basis of the allocation of compact water between the five subbasins.						
I.B.4.	CWCB notice of intent to appropriate (in Colorado).	CWCB	On hold							
I.C.	Legally protect identified flows.									
I.C.1.	Acquire (flow recommendations will be provided upon completion of Aspinall Unit studies.)									
I.C.1.a.	Assess, acquire and convert water rights to instream flows.	CWCB	On hold							
I.C.2.	Appropriate (flow recommendations will be provided upon completion of Aspinall Unit studies.)									
I.C.2.a.	CWCB approval to appropriate.	CWCB	On hold							
>* I.C.2.b.	Colorado Attorney General's Office file date.	CWCB	On hold							
>* I.C.2.c.	Water court adjudication (litigation dependent).	CWCB	On hold							
I.C.3.	Deliver.									
>* I.C.3.a.	Aspinall Unit supplemental releases to maintain 2,000 cfs minimum flow at Colorado-Utah state line 9 out of 10 years. Provide annual report.	BR	Through 01							
I.C.3.b.	Flows from Aspinall Unit for research studies.									
>* I.C.3.b.(1)	Deliver flows.	BR	Complete							
>* I.C.3.b.(2)	Protect research flows.	FWS/BR/ CWCB	Complete	An interim contact is in place between Reclamation, Service & CWCB. Long term legal protection of Gunnison River flows will occur after completion of Aspinall biological opinion (BR 04/95-FY96).						
>* I.C.3.c.	Continue annual coordination (meeting 3 times/year) of Aspinall operation until biological opinion complete.	BR	Ongoing							
I.C.3.d.	Flows from Paonia Reservoir in accordance with FWS Horsethief Biological Opinion.									
>* I.C.3.d.(1)	Deliver flows.	BR	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
I.C.3.e.	Flows from Aspinall Unit pursuant to Aspinall Biological Opinion.									
I.C.3.e.(1)	Determine if change in water right and/or contract is needed.	BR	Pending							
I.C.3.e.(2)	Enter into contract if needed.	BR	Pending							
>* I.C.3.e.(3)	Deliver flows.	BR	Pending							
I.C.3.e.(3)(a)	Study Gunnison River return flows to determine consumptive use to be charged against flow deliveries.	USGS		X						
I.D.	Evaluate and revise as needed flow regimes to benefit endangered fish populations.	FWS/Program	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
I.E.	Initiate investigations of the feasibility of modifying releases from Aspinall Unit dams to increase water temperatures that would allow for upstream expansion of Colorado pikeminnow in the Gunnison River.	BR/Contract		X						
II.	RESTORE HABITAT (HABITAT DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE)									
II.A.	Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitat.									
II.A.1.	Develop management plan for Escalante State Wildlife Area.		Complete 5/94	Burdick 1994.						

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	II.A.2.	Develop and implement levee removal strategy at high-priority sites.									
	II.A.2.a.	Preconstruction (contaminants screening, floodability assessments, environmental compliance, design & engineering).	BR	Complete	Construction completed at Escalante State Wildlife Area (200 acres) in January 2001; Butch Craig's (Unaweep Charolais Ranch) (98.7) was completed October 2003. Levee removal completed and operation, maintenance and evaluation of sites incorporated into ColoradoRiver Subbasin Floodplain Management Plan (Valdez and Nelson 2004b) (IIA4).						
>*	II.A.2.b.	Construction (levee removal)	BR	Complete							
	II.A.2.c.	Operate and maintain.	BR/FWS	Complete							
	II.A.2.d.	Evaluation.	FWS	Complete							
	II.A.3.	Acquire interest in high-priority flooded bottomland habitats.									
	II.A.3.a.	Identify and evaluate sites.	FWS	Complete	Three sites acquired (198 acres total). Floodplain acquisition completed and operation, maintenance and evaluation of sites incorporated into Colorado River Subbasin Floodplain Management Plan (Valdez and Nelson 2004b) (IIA4).						
	II.A.3.b.	Pre-acquisition planning and identification of acquisition options.	PD	Complete							
	II.A.3.c.	Conduct appraisal/NEPA compliance.	PD	Complete							
>*	II.A.3.d.	Negotiate & acquire.	PD	Complete							
	II.A.3.e.	Evaluate effectiveness of land acquisition activities and provide recommendations.	PD	Complete							
>*	II.A.3.	Develop and implement Colorado River Subbasin Floodplain Management Plan (Valdez and Nelson 2004b).	Program	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	II.B.	Restore native fish passage at instream barriers.									
	II.B.1.	Restore passage at Redlands.									
	II.B.1.a.	Assess and make recommendations for fish passage.	FWS	Complete	Burdick and Kaeding 1990.						
	II.B.1.b.	Implement viable options to restore fish passage.									
	II.B.1.b.(1)	Design passage, conduct NEPA compliance.	BR	Complete	1996 RR; Passage under construction as of 11/20/95, to be completed by 04/96, 96status.as						
>*	II.B.1.b.(2)	Construct fish ladder.	BR	Complete	Construction completed in June 1996 (Burdick 2001).						
>*	II.B.1.c.	Operate and maintain fish ladder.	FWS-FR/BR	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	II.B.1.d.	Monitor and evaluate success.	FWS-FR/BR	Complete	Burdick 2001.						
	II.B.1.e.	Identify minimum flows below Redlands Diversion Dam.	FWS-FR	Complete	Burdick 1997.						
>*	II.B.1.f.	Deliver flows below Redlands.	BR	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	II.B.1.g.	Screen Redlands diversion structure to prevent endangered fish entrainment									
	II.B.1.g.(1)	Design.	BR	Complete	2003						
>*	II.B.1.g.(2)	Construct.	BR		X	3/05					
	II.B.2.	Restore passage at Hartland.									
	II.B.2.a.	Assess and make recommendations for fish passage.	FWS-FR	Complete	Burdick and Pfeifer 1996.						
	II.B.2.b.	Evaluate viable options to restore fish passage.	BR	Complete	Burdick and Pfeifer 1996. Tetra Tech 2000 (evaluated 3 design options for passage and 3 options for screens).						
	II.B.2.c.	Design passage, conduct NEPA compliance.	BR	TBD							
>*	II.B.2.d.	Construct fish passage, if needed.	BR	TBD							
>*	II.B.2.e.	Operate and maintain.	TBD	TBD							
	II.B.2.f.	Monitor and evaluate success.	FWS	TBD							
	II.B.2.g.	Screen Hartland diversion to prevent endangered fish entrainment, if warranted.									
	II.B.2.g.(1)	Assess need.	BR/FWS/PD	TBD							
	II.B.2.g.(2)	Design.	BR	TBD							
>*	II.B.2.g.(3)	Construct, if needed.	BR	TBD							
	III.	REDUCE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF NONNATIVE FISHES AND SPORTFISH MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES (NONNATIVE AND SPORTFISH MANAGEMENT)									
	III.A.	Reduce negative interactions between nonnative and endangered fishes.									
	III.A.1.	Increase law enforcement activity to decrease angling mortality.	CDOW	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
>*	III.A.2.	Remove small nonnative cyprinids from backwaters and other low velocity habitats.	CDOW	On hold							
>*	III.A.3.	Reclaim ponds in critical habitat	CDOW	Complete	Martinez 2004.						
	III.A.3.a.	Evaluate and make recommendations.	CDOW	Complete							
	IV.	MANAGE GENETIC INTEGRITY AND AUGMENT OR RESTORE POPULATIONS (STOCKING ENDANGERED FISHES)									
	IV.A.	Augment or restore populations as needed and as guided by the Genetics Management Plan.									
	IV.A.1.	Razorback sucker.									
	IV.A.1.a.	Develop experimental augmentation plan and seek Program acceptance.	FWS-FR	Complete	Burdick et al 1995.						
	IV.A.1.b.	Implement experimental augmentation plan. (Goal: 10 adults/river mile.)									
>	IV.A.1.b.(1)	Stock fish.	FWS-FR	Complete	Burdick 2003.						
	IV.A.1.b.(2)	Monitor and evaluate results; make recommendations regarding further augmentation.	FWS-FR	Complete	Burdick 2003.						
	IV.A.2.	Develop State stocking plan for Colorado pikeminnow in the Gunnison River.									
	IV.A.2.a.	Program acceptance.		Complete	Nesler et al 2003.						

COLORADO RIVER ACTION PLAN: GUNNISON RIVER

43

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>	IV.A.2.b. Implement Colorado pikeminnow State stocking plan.	CDOW/FWS	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	IV.A.2.c. Evaluate stocking success as identified in monitoring plan for stocked fish.	FWS/CDOW		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	IV.A.3. Develop State stocking plan for razorback sucker in the Gunnison River.									
	IV.A.3.a. Program acceptance.		Complete	Nesler et al 2003.						
>	IV.A.3.b. Implement razorback sucker State stocking plan.	CDOW/FWS	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	IV.A.3.c. Evaluate stocking success as identified in monitoring plan for stocked fish.	FWS/CDOW	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
V.	MONITOR POPULATIONS AND HABITAT AND CONDUCT RESEARCH TO SUPPORT RECOVERY ACTIONS (RESEARCH, MONITORING, AND DATA MANAGEMENT)									
V.A.	Conduct research to acquire life history information and enhance scientific techniques required to complete recovery actions.									
V.A.1.	Conduct Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker inventory in Gunnison River above Redlands.	FWS-FR	Complete	Burdick 1995.						
V.A.2.	Identify additional spawning sites of endangered fishes on the Gunnison River.	FWS-FR		X	8/05					